



## FACT SHEET

### HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Housed in a glorious Beaux Arts mansion on 5,300 acres high above the Columbia River, Maryhill Museum of Art opened to the public May 13, 1940 and today remains one of the Pacific Northwest's most enchanting cultural destinations.

The museum was founded by Northwest entrepreneur and visionary Sam Hill, who purchased the property and began building the house in 1914 with dreams of establishing a Quaker farming community. When that goal proved untenable, Hill was encouraged by his friend Loïe Fuller – a pioneer of modern dance living in Paris – to turn his would-be mansion into a museum of art. Fuller's close association with well known artists in France helped build the core of the museum's collection, including the acquisition of more than 80 works by French sculptor Auguste Rodin. Hill also transferred his own art collections to the museum. Though still unfinished, the museum was dedicated in 1926 by Sam Hill's friend, Queen Marie of Romania (the granddaughter of Britain's Queen Victoria), in a ceremony that received national attention and was attended by more than 2,000 people.

Hill's death in 1931 and a drawn out settlement of his estate delayed progress on the museum, which was filled with unpacked crates of art. In 1937, Alma de Bretteville Spreckels, the wife of San Francisco sugar magnate Adolf Spreckels and a friend of Hill's, took up the task of finishing the museum. She was elected to the newly-formed board of trustees and donated artwork from her personal collection. Under her guidance, the museum was opened to the public on Sam Hill's birthday, May 13, 1940.

### COLLECTIONS & PROGRAMMING

Maryhill Museum of Art boasts a world-class permanent collection, rotating exhibitions of the highest caliber, and dynamic educational programs that provide opportunities for further exploration by visitors of all ages. On view are more than 80 works by Auguste Rodin, European and American paintings, objects d'art from the palaces of the Queen of Romania, Orthodox icons, unique chess sets, and the renowned *Théâtre de la Mode*, featuring small-scale mannequins attired in designer fashions of post-World War II France. Baskets

of Native peoples of North America were a collecting interest of Hill; today the museum's Native American collection represents many North American traditions and styles , with works of art from prehistoric to the present.

Maryhill's William and Catherine Dickson Sculpture Park features more than a dozen large-scale works by Northwest artists. The *Maryhill Overlook* is a site-specific sculpture by noted Portland architect Brad Cloepfil; nearby are Lewis and Clark interpretive panels. Four miles east of Maryhill is a life-sized replica of Stonehenge, Stonehenge Memorial, which Sam Hill built to memorialize local men who perished in World War I. Nearby, the Klickitat County War Memorial honors those who have died in the service of their country since World War I.

## BUILDING

The original historic building, a three-story Beaux Arts concrete mansion, was designed in 1910 by the Washington, D.C. architectural firm of Hornblower & Marshall; construction took place from 1914 to 1918.

The museum's first expansion, the Mary & Bruce Stevenson Wing, was designed by GBD Architects of Portland; it was completed in May 2012. The two buildings have a combined 35,000 square feet of interior space.

The museum was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. In 2001 the museum was listed as an official site of the National Historic Lewis and Clark Trail and in 2002 was accredited by the American Association of Museums (now the American Alliance of Museums).

## MISSION

From the unique Columbia River Gorge, Maryhill Museum of Art collects, presents and preserves art and historical and natural resources, to enrich and educate residents and visitors of the Pacific Northwest.

## ADMINISTRATION

The museum's executive director is Colleen Schafroth; staff includes eight full-time and eight part-time employees. The museum's current annual operating budget is just over \$1 million. The museum is governed by a 20-member volunteer Board of Trustees.

## HOURS

Open March 15 - November 15, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily

**MEDIA CONTACT(S):** Rachel Bucci [rachel@maryhillmuseum.org](mailto:rachel@maryhillmuseum.org) or Colleen Schafroth [colleen@maryhillmuseum.org](mailto:colleen@maryhillmuseum.org)

509 773-3733 | 35 Maryhill Museum Drive, Goldendale, WA 98620  
[maryhillmuseum.org](http://maryhillmuseum.org)